**The ultimate nature-nurture issue: Intelligence, social class, race, ethnicity, and heredity**

**(10 points; 200-300 words)**

Learning Objectives for this assignment:

1. Describe the interaction of nature and nurture in developing intelligence

2. Apply the transaction of nature and nurture in a controversial issue

3. Demonstrate knowledge of psychology's dominant perpsective on the issue of ethnic and racial differences IQ scores.

The topic of differences in average scores on standardized intelligence tests for various racial, ethnic, and socio-economic classes in the United States is possibly the most controversial topic in General Psychology courses. Why are there such differences in average scores?

State legislatures and the United States Congress debate the appropriation of billions of dollars based on the belief that these funds can or cannot help reduce the problem of low intelligence scores by creating new programs, improving schooling, or changing social conditions. If you do a web search on the words “race and intelligence” you will come upon web sites that vary from academic research to racial hate groups. Wikipedia has an extensive article on “race and intelligence” but cautions the reader numerous times that the material is controversial and has been judged as biased by one or more reviewers up to the present time.

**The Assignment**

What is your perspective on this issue? Clearly, intelligence has some relationship to success in school and career, although is it is not the sole determining factor. It is well-documented that average intelligence test scores vary across racial, ethnic, and socio-economic class groups. Why? Is it genetic or environmental in cause? Is it a side-effect (artifact) of the tests we have developed? Describe your perspective in 200-300 words. You must demonstrate knowledge of the related textbook material and videos to earn a high score. You are forewarned that internet searches on this topic may produce web sites with racially-charged material that is offensive as well as academic research of high quality. You need not search the internet for material; there is enough in your textbook and the videos to compose a high quality response. If you choose to cite any sources (not required), be sure to identify them clearly enough that we all can know the type of source and locate them .

Post your response in the Discussion Forum and reply substantively to at least two students to earn points.